



FACT SHEET #3:

Soil Characteristics

Some soils have the potential to create more particulate air pollution, when disturbed by human activities.

- Clay or clay/silt mixture soils create much smaller particles that stay suspended in the air
- Sandy soils create heavier particles that are more quickly re-deposited on the ground

Before starting construction, a geotechnical analysis should determine the soil texture and the shrink/swell potential of soils that will be disturbed on the site and imported to the site

- If the soils have a high or moderate potential (as shown in the soil texture triangle below) to create PM-10, then water and dust suppressants need to be applied before and during construction
- Similarly, if the soils have a high or moderate shrink/swell potential, then water and a dust suppressants need to be applied before and during construction

